



6 Ways Measuring Higher-Order Skills Supports Deep Learning Across Curricula

Higher-order skills like critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication are integral to the learning process—not isolated from it. Understanding students' proficiency with higher-order skills provides insight into their ability to apply what they're learning in core subjects like math, reading, and science—and insight into how prepared students are for their next steps after graduation.

Check out 6 ways teaching and measuring higher-order skills benefits students and educators:

1. Bridge Foundational Learning & Real World

Application: Equip students with the ability to apply their thinking and learning to various situations, across different subject areas and in real-life contexts. This skill is crucial for adapting knowledge to new and diverse situations.

2. Support Deeper Learning Across Curricula:

Foster higher-order skill development to enable students to understand, connect, and extend their learning in all subjects. This holistic approach enhances comprehension and retention of knowledge.

3. Determine the Effectiveness of New

Instructional Models: Measure student learning from innovative instructional methods like project-based and competency-based learning using performance-based assessment. These models require students to use higher-order skills to apply their subject knowledge.

4. Increase Educational Equity:

Ensure all students have the opportunity to develop the skills that are most in demand by employers and that are critical to adapting and thriving in a rapidly changing economy.

5. Identify Strengths & Areas for Improvement:

Gain a clearer picture of students' thinking processes, their ability to apply what they're learning, and their communication skills. This insight allows for targeted interventions and personalized support to enhance learning outcomes.

6. Transform Instruction:

Guide educators to shift their instructional approaches toward teaching students how to process information, solve real-life problems, and articulate their thoughts in writing. This transformation leads to more effective and impactful teaching, ultimately benefiting student learning and development.

Ready to Make Measuring and Teaching Higher-Order Skills Part of Your Educational Program?

CAE CAN HELP.

CAE is your partner in education innovation. Using our Higher-Order Skills Solution, your institution can help students build both the content knowledge AND higher-order skills they'll need wherever their next steps take them. Learn more and view sample assessments at cae.org.